

What is claimed is:

1. A water dispenser valve assembly for a refrigerator having a water line in fluid communication to a source of fluid, the valve assembly comprising:

a tube fluidly connected to the water line by a barb fitting connection at one end and connected to a dispensing nozzle at an opposing end, said tube defining a fluid passageway therein from the line to the dispensing port; and
means for selectively opening and closing the fluid passageway in the tube.

2. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 1, wherein the means for selectively opening and closing the fluid passageway includes a spring mechanism having a leaf spring connected to a pinching member, wherein the leaf spring biases the pinching member to pinch the tube for closing the passageway.

3. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 2, wherein the means for selectively opening the fluid passageway further includes a pivot member communicating with the spring mechanism for opening the fluid passageway

4. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 3, further comprising an actuator accessible to a user, said actuator operable to activate the pivot member.

5. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 1, wherein the tube is covered by a snug fit Kevlar® sock to protect the tube from abrasion and excess pressure.

6. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 2, wherein the leaf spring is retained within pockets to prevent excess erosion.

7. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 5, wherein the tube is made of silicone for providing excellent characteristics.

8. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 2, further comprising a housing having a pair of spaced parallel walls, wherein said parallel walls have pockets for securing ends of the leaf spring.

9. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 2, wherein the spring mechanism includes a pinch member operably coupled to the leaf spring.

10. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 1, wherein the barb fitting connection includes a barb fitting, a collet and a sleeve, the collet engageable over one end of the barb fitting and tube, and the sleeve having a through center aperture for receiving the collet.

11. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 10, wherein the collet has an exterior surface and an annular groove in the exterior surface proximate to a first end of the collet, and the exterior surface further has a plurality of ledges extending therefrom, wherein the ledges are positioned adjacent the annular groove for providing a stop for the sleeve.

12. The water dispenser valve assembly of claim 1, further comprising a bezel box having an open frame configuration for minimizing lateral movement of the tube.

13. The water dispenser assembly of claim 12, wherein the bezel box has an upper plate and lower plate and each plate has means for securing the bezel box within the assembly.

14. The water dispenser assembly of claim 13 wherein each plate has a through slot for receiving a portion of the tube therethrough.

15. The water dispenser assembly of claim 1, wherein the dispensing nozzle is integrally formed with a barb fitting, said barb fitting positioned at an opposing end from the nozzle.